

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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APPROVED BY NEA - ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR.

S/ S - MR. BARNES

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O R 062326 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T STATE 064462

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORY LAND PURCHASE POLICY

REF: TEL AVIV 2768

1. SISCO CALLED AMBASSADOR DINITZ AFTERNOON APRIL 6 RE SUBJECT. HE SAID WE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING DEBATE IN ISRAEL RE WHETHER RULES GOVERNING PURCHASE LAND IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES SHOULD BE LIBERALIZED. DINITZ COULD UNDERSTAND OUR INTEREST THIS MATTER. WE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ORDER TO GET ADDITIONAL INFO.

2. NOW HOWEVER, SISCO SAID, WE HAD RECEIVED REPORT INDICATING CABINET MAY TAKE UP MATTER THIS SUNDAY AND COULD MAKE POLICY DECISION THEN. WE KNEW THIS WAS ELECTION YEAR IN ISRAEL AND WE KNEW THIS SUBJECT WAS PART OF ISRAELI INTERNAL DEBATE. BUT IF THIS DEBATE WAS TO RESULT IN CONCRETE ACTION LIBERALIZING PURCHASE RULES, THEN WE OWED IT TO ISRAEL TO MAKE CLEAR WE CONSIDERED OUR INTERESTS TO BE INVOLVED AND TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN AT ANY SUCH DECISION.

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3. OUR CONCERN, SISCO CONTINUED, WAS SIMPLY THAT LIBERALIZATION OF LAND ACQUISITION BY OUTSIDERS WOULD BE SEEN AS CREATING NEW FACTS MAKING PERMANENT OCCUPATION. IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY STRENGTHEN ARAB ARGUMENT THAT ISRAEL WAS AFTER TERRITORY, NOT PEACE. WE WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AT

EFFECT SUCH ACTION WOULD HAVE IN PRESENT EMOTIONAL ATMOSPHERE IN AREA. IT WOULD COMPLICATE OUR RELATIONS WITH HUSSEIN. AND ISRAEL SHOULD HAVE IN MIND POSTURE WE HAVE BEEN TAKING TO TRY AND HELP PARTIES GET OUT OF PRESENT IMPASSE AND GET NEGOTIATIONS STARTED. SISCO SAID HE WANTED TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN PRIVATELY. HE DID NOT EXPECT DINITZ TO COMMENT NOW. HE ASKED THAT OUR VIEWS BE REPORTED SO THAT THEY COULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN CABINET MEETING.

4. DINITZ SAID HE WAS NOT INFORMED OF CURRENT STATUS DEBATE THIS SUBJECT. HE WOULD REPORT SISCO'S COMMENTS AND SEEK FURTHER INFO BOTH FOR SISCO AND HIMSELF. ROGERS

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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